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(54) Title: THE MYCOLACTONE LOCUS : AN ASSEMBLY LINE FOR PRODUCING NOVEL POLYKETIDES, WITH  
THERAPEUTIC AND PROPHYLATIC USES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to *Mycobacterium ulceran* virulence plasmid, pMUM001 and particularly to a clus-  
ter of genes carried by this plasmid that encode polyketide synthases (PKSs) and polyketide-modifying enzymes necessary and  
sufficient for mycolactone biosynthesis. More particularly this invention is directed to novel purified or isolated polypeptides,  
the polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides, processes for production of such polypeptides, antibodies generated against these  
polypeptides, the use of such polynucleotides and polypeptides in diagnostic methods, kits, vaccines, therapy and for the production  
of mycolactone derivatives or novel polyketides by combinatorial synthesis.

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